/240 cont./

dangers that surrounded them. Pregnancy, *mutua*, was recognized by the cessation of the menstrual periods. When the abdomen of the pregnant woman began to attain visible proportions, a diet based on vegetal foods and fish was initiated. As the time of delivery drew near, a separate section was built inside the house; the parturient was segregated and remained *uuki*. Female relatives helped in the delivery under the direction of an experienced woman. The parturient gave birth sitting on her heels. In difficult cases they washed her abdomen and sides with a hot infusion of cotton leaves. The umbilical cord was cut by the parturient herself or by her husband, and it was buried along with the placenta outside the house. After the birth, *enaeli*, the child was washed and handed over to the parents; later it would be given the name of some dead relative. During the birth and for some time afterward, the child and its parents remained in a state of *uuki*. The end of the seclusion was signaled by the first menstrual period of the parturient, and it was marked by a feast called *tadaumito*. The reincorporation of the parents and the child to the bosom of the community was accomplished by means of a feast called *tabiuuli*.

When children reached puberty they were secluded, *uuki*, for a period of several months. They could not come out in daylight, and they were fed and looked after by their relatives. It was believed that the greater or lesser duration of the young people's *uuki* period would lead to their better or worse physical constitution. On the other hand, a chief's son had to remain in seclusion longer than usual. The period of seclusion began for boys with the ritual of the perforation of the ears (usually undergone in groups). Girls had their ears perforated immediately after birth, and their seclusion was marked by the advent of the first menses. The end of the *uuki* state was also celebrated with the *tadaumito*. The girls then began to wear *uluri*, that is to say, triangular genital coverings about three centimeters square made of tree bark.